(ii) The Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I move that the Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill may be taken up for consideration.

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* I second it.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: സർ,ഈ ബില്ലിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രത്യേകമായി ഒന്നും പറയേണ്ടതായിട്ടില്ല. ഇതു വിശദമായിട്ടുള്ളകാര്യമാണ്. പ്രായപൂർത്തിവന്ന ആളുകൾക്കെല്ലാം വോട്ടവകാശം കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ അവർക്ക പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽ പ്രതിനിധികളായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനു നില്ക്കുവാനുള്ള അവകാശം വേണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ് ഇതിന്റെ പിന്നിലുള്ളത്. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി അധികമൊന്നും പറയേണ്ടതുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇതിനുള്ള ഭേദഗതികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഞാൻ വാശ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്, അതു സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ വിരോധമില്ലെന്നു.

Mr. President: The question is that the Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill may be taken up for consideration.

Motion put and carried

The question is that clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* There is an amendment on Clause 2 of the Bill. For Clause 2 of the Bill, the following shall be substituted, namely.—"2. It shall come into force on such date as Government may, by notification in the Cochin Government Gazette, appoint in this behalf".

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I accept it.

Mr. President: The amendment is accepted. The question is that clause 2 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Motion put and carried

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* For Clause 3 of the Bill there is an amendment. For Clause 3 of the Bill, the following shall be substituted, namely.—

"3. For section 11 of the Cochin Panchayat Act, XX of 1120, the following shall be substituted, namely.—

"11. No person shall be qualified for election to any seat on a Panchayat unless—

(*i*) his name appears on its electoral roll,

(*ii*) he has completed his twenty—fifth year of age; and

(*iii*) he can read and write Malayalam, Tamil or English".

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I accept that amendment also.

Mr. President: The question is that Clause 3 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Motion put and carried

Mr. President: The question is that the title and preamble of the Bill stand part of the Bill.

Motion put and carried

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Shall I request the President that it may be taken up to-morrow for final passing.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Constitutional Adviser):* Generally non-official Bills are not taken up on the succeeding days.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I move that this Bill may be taken up on the next meeting and finally passed.

Mr. President: The question is that the Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill may be taken up and finally passed at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

Motion put and carried

(iii) The Cochin Women's Fundamental Right to Property Bill

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women):* I move for the introduction of the Cochin Women's Fundamental Right to Property Bill.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Ernakulam):* I second it.

***Mrs. T. Francis** *(Ernakulam-Women):* Sir, Over and above the statement of Objects and Reasons given in the Bill I have to say a few words more, over this. I think, though concise that the Statement of Objects and Reasons which is given in the Bill is plain in itself and shows that the Bill ought to be introduced in this State to give the proper right to the daughters as the sons of the land. This question has been

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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50. Mr. K. Natarajan Chettiar, M.L.C., Nemmara
51. Mr. S. Govinda Menon, High Court Judge, Ernakulam
52. Mr. P. A. Mohammed Ashroff, M.L.C., Ernakulam
53. Mr. T. K, Paul, Manaloor
54. H. H. Kerala Varma, 5th Prince, Trippunithura
55. Mr. P. C. Cherian, Ernakulam
56. Mr. M. C. Verghese, Ernakulam
57. M/S South Indian Corporation Ltd., Ernakulam
58. Mr. K. K. Francis, General Merchant, Trichur
59. Mr. M. D. Verghese, Central Bank of India Ltd., Trichur
60. Rao Sahib T. Verghese, Chief Medical Officer

"B" Sub-division (e)

Names of persons who possessed cars and to whom new cars have been allotted.

1. Mr. N. O. Inasu, Trichur
2. Mr. C. R. Mannadiar
3. Mr. M. M. Paul
4. Mr. K. Madhava Menon
5. Dr. A. K. Kunhalu
6. Mr. V. K. R. Menon
7. Rama Varma Thampuran

APPENDIX III

THE COCHIN PANCHAYAT ACT (AMENDING) BILL

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Cochin Panchayat Act, XX of 1120 it is hereby enacted as follows.—

I. This Act may be called the Cochin Panchayat (Amendment Act of 1122.

II. It shall come into force at once.

III. Substitute the following for Section 11 of the Panchayat Act, XX of 1120.—

"11. No person shall be qualified for election to any seat on a Panchayat unless

(a) his name appears on the Electoral Roll

(b) and he has completed his twentyfith year of age".

Statement of Objects and Reasons

It is not necessary to fix any literacy or property qualification for a voter to stand as a candidate for election. This is not insisted on in the case of a candidate seeking election to the Legislative Council. Literacy or property qualifications is no test of political education. However, it is not likely that the electorate would elect an illiterate as their representative. Moreover, this literacy qualification would create complications in fixing as to what should be the test of literacy. Hence this Bill.

(Sd.)
P. K. DEWER

APPENDIX IV

THE WOMEN'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO PROPERTY BILL

Whereas it is deemed expedient to provide that the shares of sons and daughters in the properties of their fa her and mother irrespective of the caste, creed or community to which they belong, shall be equal. It is hereby enacted as follows.—

1. *Short title, extent and cmmencement.* (1) This Act may be called the Women's Fundamental Right to Property Act, of 112

(2) It extends to the whole of Cochin State and shall come into force atonce.

2. *Womens right to property of parents.* Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law or custom, the share of a daughter in the properties, moveable or immovable, of her father and mother shall be equal to the share of a son irrespective of the caste, creed or community to which the father and mother belong.

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